

# **SHERIFF**

## KING COUNTY

### **Biography**

### **Susan L. Rahr, Sheriff**

- Sue was born in Laramie, Wyoming in 1956, the third of seven children, the only girl. As the middle child, and, at 5'8", the shrimp of the family, Sue learned to use brains and strategy to accomplish her goals.
- Her family moved to Bellevue, Washington in 1962 where her father started his 30-year career as a Boeing engineer and her mother traded her career in nursing for the role of full-time mother of seven children.
- Sue graduated from Newport High School in 1975 and then put herself through Washington State University where she graduated Cum Laude with a BA in Criminal Justice and a minor in Sociology. Her goal was to go to law school.
- Unfortunately, (or perhaps fortunately) Sue ran out of money. She decided to work for a few years to save the money for Law School and figured being a cop would be good experience for a future prosecutor. She was told by one of her first field-training officers, "If you stay in police work more than a year you'll never leave." She soon found that he was right.
- Sue was one of the first women hired to work as a regular patrol officer. She started working in 1979 in a single-officer patrol car where the closest back up was 15 minutes away. In her first month alone she fought and brought a belligerent, intoxicated man into custody with no assistance. Her bruised, bloody hands proved to her and her peers that she could carry her own weight.
- Now, after a 27-year career rising through the ranks of the King County Sheriff's Office, Sue is the first woman Sheriff in King County history. As Sheriff, Sue oversees a department of nearly 1100 employees and a \$118 million budget in a county that spans over 2500 square miles.
- A no nonsense cop, Sue has had to give the orders to take a life in her command career in order to save lives. As Sheriff, she works tirelessly to find the resources and political support to deal with difficult public safety issues such as intervention alternatives for mentally ill offenders and people with co-occurring disorders.
- In the midst of all her career activity in law enforcement, Sue is also a wife and mother! She's been married to her high school sweetheart, Bill Rahr, a local high school teacher, for 27 years. They have two college-age sons, Billy and Peter.
- Known for her sense of humor and propensity for playing practical jokes, Sue smiles at the fact that her long-time nickname "Sheriff Sue" is finally true.

### **CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

- Has spent entire 27 year law enforcement career with the King County Sheriff's Office
- Has been promoted through the ranks from patrol deputy to Sheriff by then Congressman-elect and former Sheriff Dave Reichert
- She was elected Sheriff in 2005 with a 77% majority.
- Developed Sexual Assault Prevention program for elementary school children and parents
- Developed the Sheriff's Office party patrol program to prevent underage drinking & injury
- Developed the Sheriff's Police Activities League and has expanded the school resource officer program
- Serves as Chair of the King County Regional Law Safety & Justice Committee
- Is a Member of the King County Criminal Justice Council
- Is a Executive Board member of the Washington Association of Sheriff's and Police Chiefs
- Is a Board member of the King County Domestic Violence Council
- Is a Executive Board member of Scoutreach—a Boy Scouts of America program for minority youth

*Her personal passion? Sheriff Sue is an avid patron of the Pacific Northwest Ballet!*